

Headquarters within 3 years of the effective date of the same.

(f) and (g) TCL is offering 3 tier tariff structure of Air Time rates as follows with discount to bulk uses :

- (i) Peak traffic Hours Rs. 16.80/minute
- (ii) Normal traffic hours Rs. 8.40/minute
- (iii) Off Peak traffic hours Rs. 4.20/minute

Saleable Rooms at Howrah

1340. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of saleable rooms available for Retiring Rooms and Rail Yatri Niwas at Howrah as a part of the passenger amenities and the total number of rooms allotted only for Officers Rest House in New Coaching Complex, Officers Rest House at Old Complex at North Concourse (3rd Floor) and Officers Rest House at South Concourse (1st Floor);

(b) whether the Government are considering to make available more rooms for passengers;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The details are as under :-

Accommodation in

Retiring room : No. of beds = 16

Rail Yatri Niwas :

AC double bedded = 8 (Total 16 beds)

Non-AC double bedded = 14 (Total 28 beds)

5 bedded dormitory 5 rooms (Total 25 beds)

Non-AC 3 bedded 6 rooms (Total 18 berths)

Seven bedded 4 rooms (Total 28 beds)

Accommodation in Officers' Rest Rooms at Old Complex in North Concourse (3rd Floor) :-

Non-AC 2 bedded room = 10

2 bedded room = 2

2 bedded room for N.F. Railway = 2

2 bedded room for Howrah Division = 6

Officers Rest Room at South Concourse (1st Floor)

Non-AC Rest House = 4

AC Rest House = 2

Officers Rest House at New Coaching Complex:

Non-AC 2 bedded at 3rd Floor = 14

Non-AC 2 bedded at 4th Floor = 14

AC Rest House 2 bedded 4th Floor = 12

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The present arrangement is considered sufficient to cater to the needs of the passengers.

[Translation]

Appointments in Communications Department

1341. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of appointments made in the departments/undertakings of Ministry during the last three years till date;

(b) the number of candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes in the above appointments;

(c) the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribes are still lying vacant at present in the departments/undertakings the Ministry; and

(d) the date by which these reserved posts are likely to be filled up and the reasons for delay therein?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

1342. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the conversion of metre gauge railway line between Chennai and Madurai into broad gauge line is being undertaken; and

(b) if so, the status of the project and the time by which the said route on broad gauge is thrown open for traffic?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gauge conversion work is in full swing on Chennai - Tiruchirappalli and Tiruchirappalli-Dindigul sections. These works are presently targetted to be completed by March'98 and Dec.'98 respectively. Dindigul and Madurai are already linked with a BG line.

Supply of Wooden Sleepers

1343. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge orders for the supply of wooden sleepers have been placed on MMTC and Nagaland Forest Cooperatives when more than 2000 sets are awaiting despatch from various factories and an equal